

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 10477

E.O. 1652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, AINF, BR
SUBJECT: REACTION TO JORNAL DO BRASIL ARTICLES RE U.S. ROLE
IN 1964 REVOLUTION

REF: BRASILIA 10455

1. SUMMARY. INITIAL REACTION TO RELEASE OF CLASSIFIED DOCUMENTS FROM JOHNSON LIBRARY ABOUT U.S. ROLE IN 1964 REVOLUTION HAD BEEN GUARDED AND DEFENSIVE. NEITHER PLANALTO (PRESIDENTIAL) R LACE NOR ITAMARATY HAVE COMMENTED. THE FEW BRAZILIAN PUBLIC FIGURES WHO HAVE VENTURED COMMENT HAVE RISEN TO DEFENSE OF MAGALHAES PINTO WHO WAS ALLEGED IN CIA REPORT TO HAVE BEEN PLOTTING COUNTER REVOLUTION AGAINST CASTELLO BRANCO. MAGALHAES PINTO IS SAID TO BE STUDYING DOCUMENTS BEFORE ISSUING A PUBLIC STATEMENT. EX-PM TANOREDO NEVES HAS OFFERED STRONG DEFENSE OF HIS REPUTATION, AND CALLED UPON GOB TO CLARIFY WHAT IT WAS DOING TO END THE ACTIVITY OF THE CIA. END SUMMARY.

2. REACTION TO JORNAL DO BRASIL'S TOUR DE FORCE (REFTELS) ON U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN 1964 REVOLUTION HAS BEEN FOR MOST PART GUARDED AND DEFENSIVE. ESTADO WHICH SUMMARIZED JORNAL ARTICLES DECEMBER 21 NOTED THAT PLAALTO PALACE HAD NOT YET COMMENTED AND THAT FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN HAD LIMITED HIS REMARKS
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TO "NO COMMENT" AND ASSURED PRESS THAT NOTHING IN USG-BRAZILIAN RELATIONSHIP WOULD BE MODIFIED. ESTADO ALSO NOTED THAT AMBASSADOR CRIMMINS HAD DECLINED TO COMMENT INDICATING THAT STATEMENT RE SUBJECT "MUST COME FROM WASHINGTON."

3. EDITORIAL COMMENT HAS BEEN LIMITED SO FAR TO FOLHA DE SAO

PAULO, DECEMBER 20, WHICH TERMED DOCUMENTS "MALICIOUS" BECAUSE THEY PERMITTED "INSINUATIONS AND PROJECTED DOUBTS IN MINDS UNPREPARED FOR THE GAME OF RELATIONS BETWEEN NATIONS." FOLHA ON DECEMBER 21 ADDED THAT "BRAZILIANS ARE GOING TO FEEL VERY OFFENDED BY THE REFERENCES IN THE DOCUMENTS AND HAVE JUST MOTIVES FOR THIS." ON POSITIVE SIDE, JORNAL DE BRASILIA COLUMNIST CLAIMED IT WAS APITY THAT GOULART AND KUBITSCHKEK WERE NOT ALIVE TO CONTEST DOCUMENTS, BUT "IN ONE FORM OR ANOTHER, THEY ARE MORE PROOF OF AMERICAN LIBERTY. THE DOCUMENTS WERE NOT BURNED. THEY WERE DONATED TO A LIBRARY AND THE WHOLE WORLD HAS ACCESS TO THE."

4. MOST EXTENSIVE REACTION FROM GOVERNMENT FIGURE CAME FROM ARENA LEADER IN THE ASSEMBLY JOSE BONIFACIO WHO WHILE ADMITTING TO NOT HAVING READ DOCUMENTS, PRAISED MAGALHAES PINTO CALLING HIM A PATRIOT WITH LONG SERVICE TO BRAZIL. BONIFACIO ALSO DEFENDED REPUTATION OF EX-GOULART MINISTER TANCREDO NEVES CLAIMING CIA DEMONSTRATED THAT IT DID NOT KNOW WHAT WAS HAPPENING IN THE COUNTRY NOR DID IT KNOW WELL BRAZILIANS IN THE PUBLIC EYE. ALONG SAME THEME HE STATED WHOLE WORLD KNEW REVOLUTION RESULTED FROM A POPULAR MOVEMENT AGAINST POLITICIANS WHO HAD DECIDED TO TURN BRAZIL COMMUNIST. IT WAS INCORRECT TO THINK THAT THE AMERICANS HAD BROUGHT ABOUT THE REVOLUTION. BONIFACIO ALSO WONDERED WHY DOCUMENTS HAD BEEN RELEASED AT THIS TIME AND SAID THAT THE RELEASE WOULD ONLY BRING DIFFICULTIES FOR THE AMERICANS.

5. JORNAL DE BRASILIA REPORTS MAGALHAES PINTO IS CURRENTLY CAREFULLY EXAMINING THE DOCUMENTS RELEASED BEFORE MAKING ANY PUBLIC STATEMENT. IN FORCEFUL STATEMENT PUBLISHED IN FOLHA DECEMBER 22, FORMER PRIME MINISTER TANCREDO NEVES SAID THAT FACTS REVEALED ABOVE ALL U.S. WAS PREPARED TO OCCUPY BRAZIL ON THE CONFIDENTIAL

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ASSUMPTION THAT GOULART RESISTED HIS OVERTHROW. HE STRESSED THAT THE GOB HAD AN OBLIGATION TO CLARIFY WHAT MEASURES WERE BEING TAKEN TO END THE ACTIVITY OF THE CIA. NEVES ALSO STRONGLY DENIED ASPERSIONS ABOUT HIS HONESTY IN DOCUMENTS ADDING THAT HIS PUBLIC LIFE WAS ALWAYS OPEN TO ALL.

6. SIMILARLY, IN DEFENSE OF MAGALHAES PINTO, FORMER GENERAL MARIO POPPE DE FIGUEIREDO, WHO ASSUMED COMMAND OF THE THIRD ARMY AFTER GOULART WAS DEPOSED, SAID CLAIMS THAT MAGALHAES HAD WORKED TO OVERTHROW CASTELLO BRANCO WERE FALSE AND THT IT WAS EVIDENT THERE WAS INCORRECT INFORMATION MAGALHAES' TWO SPECIAL ASSISTANTS DURING THE PERIOD ALSO CAME TO HIS DEFENSE BOTH CLAIMING THAT MAGALHAES HAD NO CONTACTS WITH THE AMERICANS DURING THE PERIOD WHEN THE REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT OF 1964 WAS UNDER PREPARATION.

7. DURING CALL BY CHIEF USDEL JBUSMC ON CHEF DE CABINET OF BRAZILIAN ARMY GENERAL STAFF, GENERAL OTAVIO COSTA, BRAZILIAN GENERAL WONDERED WHY AMERICANS HAD DECIDED TO DECLASSIFY DOCU-

MENTS. HE SAW ACTION AS A CONSPIRATORIAL ACT AND THOUGHT IT WOULD
HURT THOSE BRAZILIANS WHO HAD BEEN SOURCES OF INFORMATION.
SIMILAR SPECULATION HAS BEEN HEARD ELSEWHERE IN MILITARY CIRCLES,
INCLUDING NOTION THAT RELEASE OF DOCUMENTS NOW IS EFFORT BY
OUTGOING REPUBLICAN ADMINISTRATION TO DISCOMFIT INCOMING
DEMOCRATS.
CRIMMINS

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